Request for vocational training programmes in Himachal Pradesh

*204. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a request from Himachal Pradesh Government for running vocational training programmes in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have considered the request;

(d) if so, to what extent; and

(e) if not, by when a decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, this Ministry has received proposals from Himachal Pradesh Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation for opening of 10 Computer Training Centres and 10 Craft Centres in ten districts namely Bilaspur, Chamba, Hamirpur, Kullu, Kangra, Sirmour, Solan, Mandi, Shimla and Una.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The proposals have been processed and the additional documents required have been sought from the State Government.

(d) Does not arise.

Development of Urban Infrastructure to keep pace with Urban Growth

*205. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that urban India will soon outstrip rural areas as revealed in a study done by the Centre for Policy Research;

(b) if so, whether we are developing the necessary infrastructure for urban development to keep pace with this growth and have we sufficient funds for this purpose; and

(c) if not, whether in this emerging scenario, the urban-rural distinction will remain relevant or do we need to look at the total settlement picture?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) The study quoted is understood to be only at the draft stage. As and when it is finanlised the Government would look into its contents.

The present policy of the Government is largely based on the strategy and provision of the 9th Five Year Plan. Government are also considering formulation of an integrated policy for human settlement, the basic objective of which is to ensure balanced and harmonious distribution of population over different category of settlements.

Deficiencies in the Office of DGS&D

*206. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are deficiencies in the system of documentation, monitoring and accountability procedure in management of arbitration cases in the Office of the Director General of Supply and Disposal, which has led to delays in follow-up action and rejection of many claims;

(b) if so, what are the full facts in this regard; and

(c) what steps have been taken to rectify the deficiencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) There is a well laid down procedure in the DGS&D for documentation and monitoring of the arbitration cases. The system is reviewed from time to time. Some of the measures/steps taken in the recent past to improve the existing monitoring system are as under:—

In October, 1999 the system has been modified, deleting the Risk Purchase provisions. A system of performance guarantee was introduced in lieu of the Risk Purchase to reduce litigation cases and to safeguard the government interest.

Training programme were organised this year by the DGS&D. A number of programmes were conducted by the DGS&D on the subject of better management of existing litigation cases. DGS&D also conducted training programme for educating the indentors and the consignees for inculcating in them a contractual discipline since the conduct of the indentors and the consignees is responsible for a number of litigation cases.